

REMARKS

Claims 3-4, 6-13, 15, and 17-37 are now pending in the application. Support for the amendment to claim 6 is found in Figs. 7 and 8, and support for the amendment to claim 15 is found in Figs. 11 and 12. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein. The Examiner has indicated that claims 21-37 are allowed and that claims 3, 4, 8, 10-13 and 18-20 contain allowable subject matter.

Allowable Subject Matter in the Objected-to Claims

By this amendment, claims 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 18 and 20 have been redrafted into independent form, with a view towards combining the subject matter of these objected-to claims with their parent base claims. The Examiner will note that in some instances the subject matter of an intervening dependent claim has not been incorporated because the subject matter was not needed to establish an antecedent basis for the subject matter deemed allowable. Thus, for example, amended claim 3 incorporates the subject matter of original claims 1 and 3, but not intervening claim 2. Claim 4 incorporates the subject matter of original claims 1 and 4, but not intervening claim 2; claim 8 incorporates the subject matter of original claims 1 and 8 but not intervening claim 6. The applicants believe that the spirit of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter has been retained in these amendments.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 5-7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barry et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,596,416). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

• Patentability of Claim 6

Claim 6 has been amended so as to clarify the following two points:

- (1) Each recording part is accommodated in a housing, and
- (2) The housing is capable of being stacked together on top of one another and decomposed.

The features of the invention recited in the amended claim 6 reside in being capable of decomposing the stacked housings, and providing only one mains plug.

Barry et al. (USP 5,596,416; "Barry") disclose a plurality of recording parts being stacked on one another. However, Barry fails to disclose that the stacked recording parts are decomposed. Barry, moreover, fails to disclose that only one mains plugs is provided in the stacked housing.

Hence, claim 6 cannot be anticipated by Barry, and is patentable over Barry. The same argument should be applied to the dependent claims 7 and 9 thereof.

Claims 15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Terauchi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,474,806). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Patentability of Claim 15

Claim 15 has been amended to clarify that each recording part is accommodated in a housing. By the amendment, the features of claim 15 reside in accommodating each recording parts in the housing, being capable of stacking the housings on top of one another, and forming an opening in each stacked housing. As a result, the work of maintenance of the recording part accommodated in the housing can be facilitated.

Terauchi et al. (USP 6,474,806; "Terauchi") disclose that a plurality of recording parts are fixed to and later removed from a frame 100, and the frame has an opening for

- taking in and ejecting the recording part. However, Terauchi fails to disclose that each housing has an opening.

Hence, claim 15 cannot be anticipated by Terauchi, and is patentable over Terauchi. The same argument should be applied to the dependent claim 17 thereof.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Dec 23, 2003

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